

Language Arts Course Descriptions

Revised: 2022

9th grade Literature and Composition

This course focuses on the acquisition of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language skills. Thorough extensive reading of literary and informational texts, students develop an understanding of how to cite strong and thorough textual evidence. Students analyze the development of a text by considering an author's choices in terms of thematic or central idea development, characterization, language, structure, and point of view or purpose. In conjunction with reading skills, the study of composition includes a focus on argumentative, informative/explanatory, and narrative writing as well as research skills. Speaking and listening skills are acquired through participation in collaborative discussions as well as formal and informal presentations. Vocabulary acquisition and usage are part of language study and include determining the meanings of words and phrases as well as understanding figurative language, word relationships, and nuances. Language and vocabulary study are integrated within the context of reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills.

9th grade Honors Literature/Composition

This course includes all components of the regular 9th grade with a more in-depth study and challenging supplementary materials and opportunities. This class is the first step in preparing for the AP exam in 11th grade. This course encourages summer reading.

10th grade Literature and Composition

This course builds upon the 9th Grade Literature and Composition course through a continued focus on the acquisition of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language skills. Extensive reading of literary and informational texts continues to develop a student's understanding of how to cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis, reflection, and research. Students analyze the development of a text by considering an author's choices in terms of thematic or central idea development, characterization, language, structure, and point of view or purpose. In conjunction with reading skills, the study of composition includes a focus on argumentative, informative/explanatory, and narrative writing as well as research skills. Speaking and listening skills are acquired through participation in collaborative discussions as well as formal and informal presentations. Vocabulary acquisition and use are also part of language study determining the meanings of words and phrases as well as understanding figurative language, word relationships, and nuances. Language and vocabulary study are integrated within the context of reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

10th grade Literature and Composition Honors

This course includes all components of 10th grade Literature and Composition but with a more in-depth study and with challenging supplementary materials and opportunities. This class is the 2nd step in preparing for the AP exam in 11th grade. Prerequisites include: 1 unit earned in 9th Grade Honors or special recommendation from a 9th grade English Teacher. Summer reading is encouraged.

American Literature and Composition

This course is a survey of American Literature from the Colonial Period to the Modern Era. It builds upon the 10th grade Literature and Composition course through a focus on the acquisition of higher level reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language skills. Through extensive reading of increasingly complex literary and informational texts, students develop a deeper understanding of how to cite strong and thorough textual evidence. In conjunction with reading skills, the study of composition includes a focus on more sophisticated argumentative, informative/explanatory, and narrative writing as well as research skills. Speaking and listening skills are acquired through participation in collaborative discussions as well as formal and informal presentations. Vocabulary acquisition and use are also a part of language study and include determining the meaning of words and phrases as well as understanding figurative language, word relationships, and nuances.

Language and vocabulary study are integrated within the context of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. This course does have an end of course exam, which counts 20% of the course grade.

American Literature and Composition Honors

This course includes all components of American Literature/Composition but with more in depth study with challenging supplementary materials and opportunities. The course prepares students for the AP Literature exam. Prerequisites: 10th grade Honors English or special recommendation from a 10th grade English teacher. Summer reading is encouraged. This course does have an end of course exam.

British Literature and Composition

This course is a survey of British Literature from the Anglo-Saxon Period to the present. It builds upon the American Literature and Composition course through a continued focus on the acquisition of higher level reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language skills. In conjunction with reading skills, the study of composition includes a focus on more sophisticated argumentative, informative/explanatory, and narrative writing as well as research skills. Speaking and listening skills are acquired through participation in collaborative discussions as well as formal and informal presentations. Vocabulary acquisition and use are also a part of language study and include determining the meanings of words and phrases as well as understanding figurative language, word relationships, and nuances. Language and vocabulary study are integrated within the context of reading, writing, speaking and listening.

Advanced Placement Language and Composition: English Core 11th or 12 grade elective course.

This course conforms to the College Board recommendations for preparing for the Advanced Placement Language and Composition exam. The course covers persuasive techniques, writing in multiple non-fiction genre, research techniques, and extensive vocabulary study. It emphasizes higher order thinking skills and critical prose analysis. Extensive reading and writing is required. Students are prepared to take the AP Lang/Comp exam in May to receive college credit. Prerequisites: Honors 10th and 11th grade Lit/Comp or teacher approval.

Advanced Placement Literature and Composition

This course conforms to the College Board standards for preparing for the Advanced Placement Literature and Composition exam. The course covers poetry, short fiction, novels and drama, literary analysis, college writing skills, extensive literary and SAT vocabulary. It emphasizes higher order thinking skills. Extensive reading and writing is required. The course prepares students for AP Lit/Comp exam in May to receive college credit. Prerequisites: AP Language, Honors 11th grade Lit/Comp or teacher approval. Summer reading is encouraged.